

ON THE QUESTION OF FREEDOM OF KOREAN NATIONALS IN JAPAN TO VISIT THEIR HOMELAND

APPEAL TO WORLD PEOPLE

**STATEMENT OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE
GENERAL FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS OF KOREA**

**STATEMENT OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE
KOREAN DEMOCRATIC YOUTH LEAGUE
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KOREAN JOURNALISTS' UNION**

APPEAL TO WORLD PEOPLE

All people of the world who love justice and respect the norms of humanitarianism!

We 600,000 Koreans in Japan appeal to you, our dear friends, in connection with the problem of realizing the freedom to visit our homeland, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

For the eighteen years since Korea's liberation from the colonial rule of Japanese imperialism, we Korean nationals in Japan have been denied the freedom of travel between Japan and our homeland, between Japan and other countries, one of the fundamental human rights, and have been detained, so to speak, in a big prison.

Denied the freedom to visit our homeland, we Korean nationals in Japan have been unable to visit our native land which we have long yearned for, have been unable for eighteen years to see our parents, wives and children, brothers and sisters, and friends from whom we have been separated.

As a result of the repatriation of the Korean nationals in Japan to the homeland over the past four years, more than 80,000 of our compatriots have returned to the embrace of the dear homeland—the Democratic People's Republic of Korea—to enjoy a happy life. However, unavoidable circumstances obliged many of the repatriates to return to the homeland by themselves, leaving their families behind. Many young men and women and many parents, for instance, returned to the homeland, leaving their parents and children behind.

Koreans remaining in Japan naturally wish to travel to their homeland and see their parents, children and relatives who have already gone there.

Freedom to visit one's fatherland is a matter related to fundamental human rights and, therefore, this is a sacred right that no one can infringe upon. This notwithstanding, this right of the Korean nationals in Japan has been encroached upon, with the result that we are experiencing

unbearable misfortunes and pains.

People living in foreign countries are guaranteed the right freely to visit their homeland, but only the Korean nationals in Japan are denied this right.

What an unreasonable state of affairs this is!

Originally, it was not of our own free will that we Korean nationals came to Japan. We were either drafted by the colonial rulers of Japanese imperialism for forced labour and military service in Japan or were compelled to leave our homeland as we had lost the means of livelihood under the cruel colonial domination of Japanese imperialism.

Since we were forcibly brought to Japan we had been driven like cattle and many of us had perished from hard toil or had been killed cruelly. And even after the surrender of Japanese imperialism in World War II and liberation of Korea, we Korean nationals in Japan have been subjected to discrimination, maltreatment and insult and have been denied as ever democratic and national rights.

Viewed from the standpoint of the historical facts, moral responsibility and the principles of international law, the Japanese government is required to guarantee democratic and national rights to the Korean nationals in Japan.

But the Japanese government fails to guarantee lawful rights to the Korean nationals in Japan. Worse still, it even denies them the freedom to visit their homeland.

What an unjust stand it is! What an unbearable state of affairs it is!

Such stand of the Japanese government stems from political motivation. It is the intention of the Japanese government to use the question of Korean nationals in Japan in bargaining with the South Korean "regime" which can in no way represent the interests of the Korean people.

The Japanese government must at once discontinue such an unjust act. It should

give up making capital out of the problem affecting the fundamental and lawful rights of the Korean nationals in Japan in its political bargaining.

The Japanese government must guarantee the Korean nationals in Japan democratic and national rights including the freedom to visit their homeland.

Dear world people!

Freedom of travel to their homeland is the cherished desire of the Korean nationals in Japan and this is a matter concerning their fundamental human rights and humanitarianism. It is for this reason that broad sections of the Japanese people express their support to the just demand of the Korean nationals in Japan, and political parties, public organizations and many

of the local assemblies of Japan have adopted resolutions calling for guaranteeing the Korean nationals in Japan the freedom to visit their homeland, urging the government to meet their demands.

This problem would be solved easily if the Japanese government should work to fulfil its duty from the standpoint of historical facts and in accordance with humanitarianism and the principles of international law.

We Korean nationals in Japan hope that you will approach the Japanese government with a demand for according us the freedom to visit our homeland.

We are confident that you, who love justice and respect the norms of humanitarianism, will give active support to us in our just movement.

HAN DUK SOO
President, Central Standing Committee of the General Association of Koreans in Japan

June 5, 1963

STATEMENT OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS OF KOREA

Recently mass struggles are being waged in all parts of Japan by the Korean nationals in Japan to win the freedom to visit their fatherland—the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

To win the freedom to visit their homeland the Korean nationals in Japan are waging an extensive mass movement—a central rally and other mass meetings, signature-collecting campaigns, etc.

The struggle of the Korean nationals in Japan for the freedom to visit their homeland, enjoying the support of the entire Korean people and unbiased public opinion of the world, is gaining momentum with each passing day.

Such a struggle of the Korean nationals in Japan is aimed at realizing their legitimate demand as overseas nationals of a sovereign, independent country; it is a just struggle both from the point of view of humanitarianism and in the light of the principles of international law and international practice.

The Central Committee of the General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea, together with the entire Korean working class, whole-heartedly supports the struggle of the Korean nationals in Japan and holds that their urgent desire should be realised without delay.

As is known to all, before long it will be eighteen years since the liberation of our country from the colonial rule of Japanese imperialism. Yet, the Korean nationals in Japan are still barred from enjoying the freedom to visit their homeland, the fundamental right of overseas nationals of an independent country.

They have a burning desire to see their ever prospering mother country and their native places. Since they are denied the freedom to visit their homeland, however, they can not visit their country and see their parents, husbands and wives and

children, brothers and sisters, relatives and friends.

Particularly, among Korean nationals in Japan there are family members and relatives whose parents, husbands and wives and children, relatives and friends have been repatriated to the homeland in recent years. These family members and relatives among Korean nationals who still remain in Japan owing to unavoidable circumstances are very anxious to see their loved ones. But their wish has not been realized either.

The Korean nationals in Japan were forced to lead a life in colonial slavery on a foreign soil for tens of years. They were a people without a country. But today their fatherland is liberated. Then, how would it be possible for them to bear the condition in which they are still forced to live a prisoner-like life unable to travel freely to and from their homeland?

The right of the Korean nationals in Japan to visit their homeland freely is their national right and a fundamental human right no one can trespass on.

Originally, the question of the Korean nationals in Japan is a question that arose as a result of the Japanese imperialists' colonial rule over Korea.

Consequently it is the due responsibility and duty of the Japanese authorities to find a fair solution of it including the travel of the Korean nationals in Japan to and from their homeland.

The overwhelming majority of the 600,000 Korean nationals living in Japan at present did not go over to Japan of their own accord. They were either taken to Japan for forced labour or for conscription by the Japanese imperialist rulers in the past or had to go there in search of a means of living, being unable to live any more in their homeland due to the harsh

predatory colonial policy of Japanese imperialism.

Once they were taken to a strange land thousands ri away across the sea, they were subjected to unspeakable hard toil at munitions factories, at the construction sites of secret military bases, in the pits thousands of feet deep of the collieries and mines, at the perilous construction sites of dams of the hydro-electric power stations or of tunnels and bridges.

A great number of them met with untimely death or became crippled under the bayonets and whips of Japanese imperialist soldiers, police and overseers.

The Korean nationals remaining in Japan today are those who narrowly survived such outrageous humiliation and maltreatment by the Japanese imperialists.

When Japanese imperialism surrendered and Korea was liberated, the Japanese authorities should have apologized to the Korean nationals in Japan for their past crimes and should have ensured legitimate rights due to them as foreign residents as long as they remain in Japan.

The Japanese government, however, did not ensure the Korean nationals in Japan democratic, national rights including the right to employment, the right to complete national education, and the right to visit their homeland freely.

Neither from historical points of view nor from moral points of view, can the Japanese authorities evade their obligation to provide the Korean nationals in Japan with democratic, national rights, including the freedom to visit their homeland.

The freedom of the Korean nationals in Japan to visit their homeland must be ensured both in the light of international law and the norm of international practice.

The Korean nationals in Japan are no longer the colonial people who were deprived of their country by Japanese imperialism; they have their sovereign, independent fatherland; they are proud citizens of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

It is a principle recognized by international law for overseas nationals of an independent country to visit freely their homeland when necessary.

All other alien nationals in Japan are freely travelling to and from their homelands. Then there can be no reason why

only the Korean nationals in Japan are not allowed to visit their homeland freely.

Yet, the Japanese authorities persistently refuse to ensure the Korean nationals in Japan the freedom to visit their homeland. Moreover, the Japanese authorities are attempting to use the question of Korean nationals in Japan in their political bargaining with the South Korean military fascist clique at the "ROK-Japan talks" held at the instigation by U.S. imperialism.

The Korean working class will not tolerate the infringement by the Japanese authorities upon democratic, national rights of the Korean nationals in Japan. Still less the use of this question as a bait in any political bargaining.

The Japanese government must satisfy the just demand of the Korean nationals in Japan without delay.

No pretext will relieve the Japanese authorities from the obligation and responsibility for guaranteeing democratic, national rights to the Korean nationals in Japan including the freedom to visit their homeland.

The Japanese authorities must sincerely discharge their moral responsibility and legal obligation they bear in the question of the Korean nationals in Japan.

Once again we strongly demand that the Japanese government should immediately take appropriate measures to meet promptly the just demand of the Korean nationals in Japan for the freedom to visit their homeland.

The Korean working class will continue to resolutely support the struggle of the Korean nationals in Japan to satisfy their just demand.

The struggle of the Korean nationals in Japan to win the freedom to visit their homeland is today enjoying the unanimous support of the broad public circles of Japan and unbiased public opinion of the world.

Political parties and social organizations of Japan including the Communist Party and the Socialist Party are actively joining the struggle of the Korean nationals in Japan and a great number of provincial and municipal councils have adopted resolutions demanding the Japanese government to ensure the Korean nationals in Japan the freedom of travel to and from their homeland, urging it to accept them.

Firmly believing that the just demand of the Korean nationals in Japan for the freedom to visit their homeland will certainly be translated into reality with the powerful support of the Japanese people and of the peoples of the world, we appeal

to the working class and trade union organizations of all countries, all friends and fair-minded personages all over the world to extend their continuous support to and solidarity with the struggle of the Korean nationals in Japan.

June 21, 1963

STATEMENT OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE KOREAN DEMOCRATIC YOUTH LEAGUE AND THE KOREAN STUDENTS' COMMITTEE

Today, the Korean nationals and youth and students in Japan with one and the same wish are waging a vigorous mass struggle to win the freedom to visit their homeland—the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The Central Committee of the Korean Democratic Youth League and the Korean Students' Committee fervently support the just demand of the Korean nationals and youth and students as well as their struggle for its realization.

The freedom of the Korean nationals and youth and students in Japan to visit their homeland has been their consistent wish and national aspiration, and is a question concerning the national right and fundamental human right which no one can trespass on.

For the Korean nationals and their younger generation, youth and students, in Japan, it is an urgent question allowing of no further delay to win the freedom of travel to their homeland.

The Korean youth and students in Japan are denied the right to visit their homeland freely although they, as the future masters of Korea, ardently long for and love their socialist fatherland. As a result, they know their homeland only from what they have heard and read. They have not been able to set their foot on the soil of their beautiful homeland, in the towns and villages. Nor have they walked with lively steps on the land of their homeland breathing the fragrance which fills its mountains and rivers and visualising the hopeful future of theirs.

The Korean youth and students in Japan are unable to see their relatives and friends living in the homeland. Particularly, those who are obliged to remain in Japan owing

to unavoidable circumstances, cannot come to see their parents, brothers and sisters, relatives and friends, who have returned to the homeland and been leading a happy life since the historic repatriation work started. Nor are they allowed to take part freely in the international meetings of world youth and students. Should they attend such meetings they are barred from re-entering Japan due to the unreasonable stand of the Japanese authorities.

For the past eighteen years since the liberation of their fatherland, the Korean nationals and youth and students in Japan have been subjected to a humiliating life little better than a life in confinement.

The humiliation and persecution of the Korean nationals in Japan by the Japanese imperialists for scores of years in the past must not be imposed upon their succeeding generation, the Korean youth and students.

Today the Korean nationals, youth and students in Japan are no longer the colonial people of yesterday, not the people without a country. They are no longer the people of the old era. They are proud overseas citizens, youth and students of their glorious sovereign, independent fatherland—the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

This notwithstanding, the Korean nationals and youth and students in Japan can not enjoy their democratic and national rights as the overseas citizens of an independent country and the freedom to visit their homeland for nearly eighteen years after Japanese surrender and the liberation of Korea.

As is generally known, the absolute majority of the Korean nationals in Japan did not go over to Japan of their own free will. But they were either taken there by the Ja-

panese imperialist rulers as recruits or labour force, or they found their way to Japan after having lost their means of livelihood in their native places owing to the brutal colonial rule of Japanese imperialism.

They had been condemned to sub-human humiliation, insults, contempt, and sufferings at the hands of the Japanese imperialist rulers. And they were driven like cattle. Many of them met with untimely death tortured by back-breaking toil, poverty and hunger or were slaughtered mercilessly.

In view of the crimes the Japanese imperialists committed against the Korean nationals in Japan in the past, the Japanese authorities are bound in duty to accord the Korean nationals in Japan due treatment and lawful rights as foreign residents in Japan after the surrender of Japanese imperialism and the liberation of Korea.

The Japanese authorities, however, placing the Korean nationals and youth and students in Japan outside the protection of law, have been overriding all their democratic and national rights including their freedom to visit their homeland, in violation of international law and humanitarian principles.

Consequently, the Korean nationals and youth and students are still subjected to national discrimination, persecution and non-rights.

The Japanese authorities, both from the historical and moral points of view, can never evade their responsibility for ensuring the Korean nationals in Japan all the national, democratic rights including the freedom to visit their homeland.

The Japanese authorities should immediately satisfy the just demand of the Korean nationals, youth and students for the freedom to visit their homeland. This demand of the Korean nationals, youth and students for their freedom to visit their homeland is fully justified in the light of international law and the norm of international practice.

As recognized by international law and established through international practice, it is a due right of the overseas nationals of an independent country as alien residents in a country to enjoy a right freely to visit their homeland as necessitated by circumstances.

Today, all foreigners residing in Japan are ensured the right to visit any country, not to mention their own countries. But only the Korean nationals in Japan are denied the right to visit their homeland.

This is utterly contrary to international law and humanitarian principles. The Japanese authorities are putting forth various pretexts to turn down the just demand of the Korean nationals in Japan for the freedom to visit their homeland.

Not only that. At the instigation of U.S. imperialism, the Japanese authorities are scheming behind the scene of the "ROK-Japan talks" with the South Korean military regime which can by no means represent the Korean people to use the question concerning the national rights and vital interests of the Korean nationals in Japan as a bait in their political bargaining with the South Korean military fascist clique.

The entire Korean youth and students can never tolerate democratic, national rights of the Korean nationals in Japan being infringed upon by the Japanese authorities, and the Japanese authorities even making them an object of political bargaining.

The Central Committee of the Korean Democratic Youth League and the Korean Students' Committee, in the name of the entire Korean youth and students, resolutely demand that the Japanese authorities take immediately appropriate measures for ensuring by law democratic and national rights of the Korean nationals, youth and students in Japan and realising their just aspiration for a free visit to their fatherland. The entire Korean youth and students will support to the end the righteous struggle of the Korean nationals, youth and students in Japan for the freedom to visit their homeland.

Today, the broad Japanese public circles and unbiased public opinion of the world are extending active support to the just struggle of the Korean nationals and youth and students in Japan to win the freedom to visit their homeland.

The Japanese Communist Party, Japanese Socialist Party, Japanese Democratic Youth Union and other democratic parties and public organisations as well as many local councils of Japan already adopted re-

solutions demanding the Japanese government to ensure the Korean nationals in Japan the freedom to visit their homeland.

The just struggle of the Korean nationals, youth and students to win the freedom to travel to and from their fatherland, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, will certainly be crowned with victory.

In the name of the entire Korean youth and students, we call upon the young people and students of the world as well as

the international and national youth and students organizations to express their undivided support to and firm solidarity with the struggle of the Korean nationals, youth and students in Japan to win their freedom to visit their homeland.

We believe that hundreds of millions of youths and students of the world who cherish freedom, democracy and justice and are fighting for a yet brighter future will give an active response to our appeal.

June 25, 1963

STATEMENT OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE KOREAN DEMOCRATIC WOMEN'S UNION

Today the entire Korean women in Japan together with the entire Korean nationals in Japan are all out to win the freedom of travel between Japan and their homeland, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The Central Committee of the Korean Democratic Women's Union extends its warm support and compatriotic encouragement to the struggle of the Korean nationals and women in Japan for the freedom to visit their homeland.

The mounting struggle of the Korean nationals and women in Japan for the freedom to visit their homeland is a just struggle for defending their legitimate national right as the citizens of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. And no one can bar this struggle.

The Korean nationals in Japan of today are not a people without a country of the past who were denied all rights, subjected to all sorts of humiliation and persecution, and suffered from abject poverty in Japan. They have their glorious fatherland—the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. They are overseas nationals of a full-fledged independent country who should duly enjoy their sacred national rights.

It is more unbearable for the Korean women and mothers in Japan in particular to lead a life little better than a life in confinement in a foreign country and to be unable, though eighteen years have elapsed since their country's liberation, to visit their native places that they have so long been longing for and see again their parents, brothers and sisters, and relatives from whom they have long been separated.

The Korean mothers in Japan have children who have been brought up in Japan and are yet to see their own country.

The younger generation of Koreans born in Japan most ardently long for their glori-

ous fatherland, and want to know better about the honoured history of their nation and its long-established cultural heritage, and hope to see with their own eyes their socialist homeland, wealthy, strong and prospering.

Due to the unjust stand of the Japanese government, however, the Korean mothers in Japan cannot satisfy this earnest desire of their sons and daughters.

Moreover, in the course of the repatriation of Korean nationals in Japan which started in 1959, many Korean women in Japan, owing to unavoidable circumstances, have sent their children to the homeland before them. Then there are many who have returned home leaving their sons and daughters in Japan.

A mother misses her children dearly even if they are away for three days. This is a maternal love, common to all mothers of all countries. No word would do justice to such ardent feelings of the Korean women in Japan who have been living separated from their flesh and blood for so many years!

Indeed, today the question of freedom to visit their homeland is a vital, urgent demand of the Korean women and the entire Korean nationals in Japan, and this demand must be satisfied without delay. Moreover, the demand of the Korean nationals in Japan for the freedom to visit their homeland is fully justified in the light of both international law and the norm of international practice.

The freedom to visit one's own country, freedom of travel abroad—this is a question of inviolable fundamental human rights. That is why the broad sections of the Japanese people are giving active support to the struggle of the Korean nationals in Japan for their free movement between Japan

and their homeland.

The Executive Committee of the Japanese Mothers' Congress that has a very wide membership of Japanese mothers, too, has sent its delegation to the Japanese government to strongly demand that the Japanese government speedily recognize the freedom of the Korean women and nationals in Japan to visit their homeland. And the Japanese women are more extensively waging a social movement to render active support to this just demand of the Korean nationals in Japan. This just struggle is also arousing support and sympathy of all the honest-minded people and women the world over.

Nevertheless, the Japanese government, while providing all the alien residents in Japan with the right to visit their homelands and foreign countries, has denied the Korean nationals in Japan alone their freedom to visit their homeland.

In this the Japanese authorities are pleading "no diplomatic relations" and "no precedent," but nothing will justify their entirely unreasonable and inhumane stand.

It only self-exposes that the Japanese government is trying to use the question of the Korean nationals in Japan in its political bargaining with the South Korean military fascist elements under the manipulation of U.S. imperialism.

We the entire Korean women and people can never tolerate democratic national rights of the Korean nationals in Japan being encroached upon by the Japanese authorities. Still less their use of the question of the right of the Korean nationals in Japan in political bargaining.

The Japanese government can never evade its responsibility for fully guaranteeing the Korean nationals in Japan all the democratic, national rights including the freedom to visit their homeland, in view of the grave historical crimes, if for no other reasons, Japanese imperialism committed against the Korean nationals in Japan—all national calamities and countless tragedies.

The Korean Democratic Women's Union on behalf of all the women and mothers affiliated to it once more strongly demands the Japanese authorities to take necessary measures immediately for ensuring the Korean nationals and women in Japan the freedom to visit their homeland.

We appeal to the women of the world and all the international and national women's organisations continuously to extend active support to and solidarity with the struggle of the entire Korean nationals and women in Japan for the freedom to visit their homeland and exert their influence upon the Japanese government.

June 27, 1963

STATEMENT OF THE KOREAN DEMOCRATIC LAWYERS' ASSOCIATION

Now a resolute struggle is being waged by the Korean nationals in Japan for the right freely to visit their fatherland, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The struggle of the Korean nationals in Japan for the freedom to visit their homeland is a just struggle to exercise their legitimate right as full-fledged citizens of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The Korean Democratic Lawyers' Association extends unequivocal support to the just demand of the Korean nationals in Japan for the freedom to visit their homeland and to their struggle for its realisation.

The freedom to visit their beloved fatherland, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea—this is a sacred legal right of the Korean nationals in Japan no one can trespass on.

The right of the overseas citizens of a sovereign state to visit his own country freely as necessitated by circumstances is a humanitarian principle recognised by international law and confirmed by the norm of international practice.

As is stipulated by the norm of modern international law, the entry and exit regulations for aliens should be applied fairly to every foreigner in a country, no matter what a country it may be, and no discrimination should be placed upon nationals of any particular country.

Moreover, there exists today no precedent in any civilized country of denying aliens residing in that country the freedom to visit their own country. Attention should be called to the fact that such a requirement of international law is fully reflected in the existing Japanese laws, and that it is actually satisfied for foreign residents in Japan. The Japanese government recognizes and ensures the freedom of movements of all alien residents in Japan, with one single

exception, to visit their homelands. The Japanese authorities deny this right to the Korean nationals alone.

Thus for the past eighteen years since the liberation of Korea the Korean nationals in Japan have been denied the freedom to visit their homeland. They have been unable to see their long-separated families, brothers, relatives and friends in Korea and they are compelled to lead a life little better than a prisoner's in a huge prison.

This is an intolerable discriminatory measure which is strictly excluded by modern international law. It is an abnormal phenomenon that not only constitutes a violation of international legal instruments which the Japanese government has also recognized and the officially accepted principles of international law, but also runs counter to the Japanese laws in force. The realization of the demand of the Korean nationals in Japan for the freedom to visit their homeland is a question that the Japanese government authorities should ensure without delay not only from the viewpoint of international law and international practice but also from a moral standpoint. As is known to the whole world, the question concerning the Korean nationals in Japan was originally resulted from the Japanese colonialist rule over Korea. Therefore, it is the due responsibilities and duty of the Japanese government to ensure properly the Korean nationals in Japan democratic rights including that of free travel to their homeland.

Most of the Korean nationals in Japan did not go over to Japan of their own free will. But they were either taken there by the Japanese imperialist colonial rulers as recruits or labour force or compelled to quit their dear homeland after having lost their means of livelihood under the ruthless Japanese colonial rule.

Once they were brought to Japan, they were subjected to cruel slave labour, and many of them met with untimely death from back-breaking toil, or were slaughtered mercilessly.

Even after the defeat of Japanese imperialism and the liberation of Korea the Korean residents in Japan are not ensured treatment due to aliens as stipulated by international law, and are leading an unstable and miserable life in poverty, subjected to national humiliation, persecution and non-rights. Moreover, they are put outside legal protection.

It is abundantly clear that the Japanese authorities should guarantee the Korean nationals in Japan democratic and national rights both in the light of historical facts and from a moral standpoint. Moreover, the Korean nationals in Japan are proud citizens of a sovereign, independent country—the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

They are most anxious to visit their prospering homeland, come to their native places and see their long-separated kinsfolk and friends.

Particularly, now that some 80,000 Korean nationals have returned to the homeland—the Democratic People's Republic of Korea—from Japan since the repatriation work began nearly four years ago, many Koreans still remaining in Japan wish to visit their flesh and blood, relatives, and friends who have come back home ahead of them.

No one can deny such desire of the Korean nationals in Japan.

Nevertheless the Japanese authorities

still try to deny the Korean nationals in Japan the freedom to visit their homeland pleading "no diplomatic relations" or "no precedent."

Such arguments are quite absurd and no warranted.

The question of one's movements is purely a question of human rights. Therefore, its solution must be sought from the humanitarian standpoint.

As to the argument of "no precedent," facts tell the reverse. Is it not true that all countries including Japan at present grant foreign residents the freedom to travel to other countries and visit their mother countries irrespective of diplomatic relations?

The Japanese authorities have no grounds whatsoever to deny the Korean nationals in Japan the freedom to visit their homeland either from the viewpoint of international law or from the moral standpoint based on historical facts.

The Korean Democratic Lawyers' Association strongly holds that the Japanese government authorities should immediately abandon the unreasonable position and measures against the Korean nationals in Japan, legally guarantee their democratic, national rights and take necessary steps for the early realization of their just demand and aspiration for the freedom to visit their homeland.

We are convinced that the struggle of the 600,000 Korean nationals in Japan for the realization of their just demand will enjoy even more active support of the honest-minded people in Japan and the whole world and it will be realised without fail.

June 29, 1963

STATEMENT OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE KOREAN JOURNALISTS' UNION

A vigorous struggle is being waged among the Korean nationals in Japan for the freedom to visit their country, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

In Tokyo and all other parts of Japan the Korean nationals have risen up in a mass campaign for realising this earnest desire in various forms: mass rallies, meetings, signature-collecting campaigns, etc.

Indeed such struggle is a natural expression of the long-cherished national aspiration of the Korean nationals in Japan, who love their fatherland and people and want to lead a hope-filled life. They have been subjected to contempt and humiliation of every description for scores of years in a foreign country as a colonial people without their own country; and even today, eighteen years after the country's liberation from Japanese occupation, they are denied the right to visit their prospering fatherland freely.

Their demand is also fully justified both in the light of historical facts and from the viewpoint of humanitarianism and of the principles of international law.

The freedom of the Korean nationals in Japan to visit their fatherland is a national right that no one can violate, a fundamental requirement of the human rights and an urgent question the solution of which brooks no delay.

In the name of the entire Korean journalists, the Korean Journalists' Union, extending active support to this just struggle of the Korean nationals in Japan for the freedom to visit their homeland, maintains strongly that their urgent desire be met immediately.

It is a general knowledge that the absolute majority of the Korean nationals in Japan did not go over to Japan of their own accord. They were taken to Japan for forced

labor or were drafted by the Japanese colonial rulers, or compelled to find their way to Japan after leaving their dear homes deprived of means of livelihood owing to the cruel and predatory colonial policy of Japan.

For scores of years in a foreign land they were forced to indescribably hard labour, and many of them met untimely death from poverty and starvation.

The Japanese government authorities have the moral responsibility and obligation to grant the Korean nationals in Japan all the democratic and national rights and legal rights due to alien residents.

Nevertheless the situation remains unchanged with the Korean nationals in Japan. They are not only still held in contempt and suffering from hard life but also are denied the right to visit their fatherland freely.

Since the Korean nationals in Japan are barred from visit to their country, they have been unable to see the exciting picture of their new country in construction, though their glorious homeland is within a calling distance, and are unable to reunite with their parents, brothers and sisters, relatives and friends, from whom they have been separated for scores of years.

Moreover, they cannot come and see their kinsfolk and friends who have been until recently in the same situation with them in Japan, but are now leading a happy life after their return to their fatherland.

What an abnormal situation this is!

Indeed, today the Korean nationals in Japan are forced to lead a disgraceful life in Japan little better than a life in confinement.

Such a situation is entirely attributable indirectly to the obstruction by the U.S. imperialists and, directly, to the illegal in-

fringement by the Japanese government of all the democratic, national rights of the Korean nationals in Japan including the freedom to visit their homeland.

Today all foreigners residing in Japan are allowed to visit freely their homelands. Why should the Korean nationals alone be denied this due right? How can one tolerate such wrong any longer?

The Korean nationals in Japan are no longer the colonial people of yesteryear who were deprived of their country by Japanese imperialism; they are proud citizens of a sovereign, independent fatherland—the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

That overseas nationals of an independent state have the right to visit their homeland as necessitated by circumstances is their due right and a question of fundamental human rights which no country can infringe upon.

The Japanese government is overriding the demand of the Korean nationals in Japan for the freedom to visit their fatherland, putting forth such absurd pretexts as "no diplomatic relations," "no precedent" and the like.

This unreasonable stand of the Japanese government is originated from its unfriendly policy toward the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and is linked with the unscrupulous design to use the question of the Korean nationals in Japan in the despicable political bargaining with the South Korean military fascist clique.

No more can we the entire Korean journalists tolerate the unreasonable acts of the Japanese government and the state of virtual confinement in which the Korean nationals in Japan are placed.

There is no reason or ground whatsoever for the Japanese government to continue to suppress the freedom of the Korean nationals in Japan to visit their homeland.

The Central Committee of the Korean Journalists' Union, in the name of the entire Korean journalists, once again strongly demands that the Japanese government take appropriate measures at once to satisfy the just demand of the Korean nationals in Japan to travel freely between Japan and their homeland.

Today the just struggle of the Korean nationals in Japan to win the freedom to visit their homeland is enjoying the unanimous support of the broad public circles of all countries and the progressive journalists the world over who value personal dignity, humanism and the norm of international practice.

The Japanese Communist Party, Japanese Socialist Party and other democratic parties and public organisations as well as local councils of Japan in their resolutions and statements expressed their active support to this just struggle of the Korean nationals in Japan.

It is our firm belief that the just demand of the Korean nationals in Japan for the freedom to visit their homeland which enjoys active support of the peoples of Japan and the world will certainly be materialized. Moreover the entire Korean journalists hope that all the journalists and honest-minded friends the world over who love justice and humanism and value human rights will all the more actively express their solidarity with the struggle of the Korean nationals in Japan.

July 2, 1963